



**Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District**  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **AIR DISTRICT AWARDS AVSTA \$1.7 MILLION IN CLEAN AIR GRANTS**

Lancaster -- Antelope Valley students and residents will soon be breathing easier, thanks to \$1,778,165.55 in grants awarded to the Antelope Valley Schools Transportation Agency through the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District's Mobile Source Emission Reduction Program.

During their regular meeting of August 18, the local air agency's Governing Board awarded \$1,768,686 in funding to AVSTA for the replacement of 13 existing diesel-fueled school buses with 13 new, cleaner burning compressed natural gas-fueled buses. The diesel buses – which will be permanently removed from service and scrapped - failed to meet smoke opacity tests required for operation in the State of California. The proposed CNG-fueled school busses meet 2010 emissions standards and are anticipated to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides – a primary component of smog - by 83 tons and particulate matter emissions from diesel exhaust by 4 tons, based on a twenty-year project lifetime.

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AVAQMD funding towards each new bus totals \$137,365, while AVSTA will provide \$37,365 in match funds per vehicle.

In addition to the CNG bus grant, the AVAQMD Governing Board also allocated \$9,479.55 towards the installation of nine additional fueling lines at the AVSTA public-access CNG station located in Lancaster. The added lines will be used to support the AVSTA's growing CNG fleet, which includes 25 school buses, one shop truck, and the soon-to-be acquired replacement buses. According to AVAQMD Operations Manager Bret Banks, it is critical that AVSTA have access to adequate CNG fueling infrastructure, due to the limited availability of such facilities in the region. "These grant funds will not only insure that AVSTA has reliable refueling for its growing school bus fleet, but also that adequate infrastructure exists to support the future expansion of alternative fuel use throughout the Antelope Valley," stated Banks.

Funds for the AVSTA grants were allocated from the AVAQMD's AB2766 and AB923 grant programs. The AB2766 program utilizes a portion of funds allocated to the air district from motor vehicle registration fees to fund local projects that reduce mobile source emissions. The AB 923 program allocates an additional \$2 motor vehicle registration fee assessed per licensed vehicle in California to fund incentive-based emission-reduction funding programs, such as the Lower Emission School Bus Replacement Program.

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